



## MONTGOMERY COUNTY ETHICS COMMISSION

Public Meeting of May 1, 2018

### Minutes

#### IN ATTENDANCE:

##### Commissioners:

Steve Rosen, Chair  
Kenita Barrow, Vice-Chair  
Susan Beard  
Rahul Goel  
Bruce Romer

##### Staff Members:

Robert W. Cobb, Chief Counsel  
Erin Chu, Program Manager

Item 1. The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m.

Item 2. The new Commissioners, Susan Beard and Bruce Romer were introduced and welcomed to the Commission.

Item 3. The Commission approved the minutes from the March 27, 2018, meeting as presented.

Item 3. Mr. Cobb gave a brief overview of the approval of the Ethics Bill 2-18 and its implications for the programs operated by Commission staff when the law becomes effective 90 days after passage. He indicated that minor changes would be implemented for the financial disclosure system, outside employment, and lobbying registration systems. With respect to financial disclosure, to address law changes, a check box would be added for filers to indicate that property is a home address, so that staff can redact that information upon public request for a filing. In addition, Cobb indicated that the disclosure form will add a new question relating to lobbying income of a filer's spouse. Cobb expressed that these changes could likely be made without any major interference with the operation of the financial disclosure system.

With the attention to conforming police outside employment to practices of the Commission, there will be minor changes to the outside employment request form. More significantly, there is an intent to build a new police request system on the same platform as the Commission's outside employment system, with information required by the Commission fed to the Commission's database. This is a significant project considering all the requirements of the police request process under the Collective Bargaining Agreement with the Fraternal Order of Police and the intent is for this to be built by the end of 2018.

As regards the lobbying law change to delete the requirement for signatures of clients of lobbyists on registration forms, the Commission will be able to make registration easier for lobbyists. If and when an online payment system for lobbying can be facilitated, the Commission will be able to go from a two-step filing process for lobbying registration to a one-step process. This will make registration easier for lobbyists and furthermore conform the registration practice with the legal requirement for lobbyists to register with 5 days, which previously created challenges.

Item 4. The Ethics Commission reviewed and approved the minor changes to the Commission's proposed regulation, which changes are intended to conform the Commission's regulation to the changes to the ethics law and make minor accommodations to CBA provisions.

Item 5. The Commission discussed the Government Operations Committee's work session scheduled for May 3 and the Commission's proposed budget. Cobb indicated that he did not think any members of the Commission would be needed for the session.

Item 6. Mr. Cobb and Erin Chu gave an overview of the status of financial disclosure submissions: Of 1503 required filings, there was only one person whose filing was outstanding which staff believed to have no valid reason for non-filing. This nonfiling involves a board and commission member rather than a full-time employee. (There were five instances of nonfilings that were explained as being due to illness or other leave (disciplinary). 1095 filings had been accepted by the Commission after review by Erin.

Item 7. The Commission set its July meeting for Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Public Meeting adjourned at 8:00.

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert W. Cobb  
Chief Counsel